



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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INTERPRETIVE OPINION

Pursuant to §103-50, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), all buildings and facilities constructed by, or on behalf of the State or any county, shall conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) and amendments. In accordance to HRS §103-50 and Chapter 11-217, Hawaii Administrative Rules, the Disability and Communication Access Board has authority to issue interpretive opinions to HRS §103-50 design standards.

Docket: **DCAB 2003-04:** Can the accessible toilet paper dispenser be mounted above the grab bar? If an object is mounted above the grab bar what requirements are there for clearance between the grab bar and the projecting object? How far out must an object project to be subject to clearance requirements above a grab bar?

Summary: The current ADAAG does not address mounting of objects above a grab bar. The Access Board looks at guidelines from the proposed new rule for the ADAAG when elements or situation are not addressed in the current ADAAG but are addressed in the proposed final rule. The latest revision indicates a mounting height for a toilet paper dispenser to be at 15 inches minimum and 48 inches maximum above the finish floor. Another requirement indicates a 15 inches minimum clearance between the grab bar and projecting objects above. Any amount of projection would require 15 inches minimum clearance. The object must be mounted flush to the wall to not be subject to the clearance requirement.

Ruling: For buildings or facilities subject to HRS §103-50,

ADAAG 4.16.6 Dispensers, 4.17.6 Grab Bars, 4.26.2 Size and Spacing of Grab Bars and Handrails

The space between the grab bar and projecting objects above shall be 15 inches minimum, and the highest operable part of controls, dispensers, receptacles, and other operable equipment shall be placed within the applicable accessible reach range.

[Rul: 04/22] (Auth and Imp: HRS §103-50)

If you have any questions or comments regarding this ruling, please call us at 586-8121.

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